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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, JAN. 16.

WANTED.

When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there this week which it will pay you to read about. See page two. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week and one cent a word will reach them all.

Attorney-General Wickersham is to "push the hard coal trust further." He will have the consuming public back of him.

The selection of Congressman Weeks of Massachusetts as successor to Hon. W. M. Crane in the United States Senate assures the Bay State a strong man in the upper branch of Congress, but he will hardly be another Sumner or Hoar, although he may be as astute a politician as Crane has been.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND NEW PROJECTS.

While the Supreme Court has decided that the Public Service Commission of Vermont is a valid body under our State constitution, the effect of the decision under the conditions under which the same was rendered has been to leave an atmosphere of uncertainty enveloping both the commission and the public. One of the judges of the Supreme Court was not present at the hearing, one of the superior judges sitting with the supreme tribunal, and there is natural wonderment what might have happened had the decision represented the entire supreme bench, or had the same principle been involved in a different case.

Indeed the situation is such that before the atmosphere is cleared it may be deemed necessary to pass a new law establishing a Public Service Commission constituted to comply with the requirements of the new statute that has arisen, or in other words, that will meet the objections raised with reference to the jurisdiction of the commission under the law now in operation.

The danger of permitting present conditions of uncertainty to continue regarding the powers of the Public Service Commission becomes fully evident when we consider the case of the new union passenger station in Burlington ordered by that body.

Let us suppose that shortly after the adjournment of the Legislature some other case involving the constitutionality of the Public Service Commission were to be taken to the Supreme Court, and that this tribunal should decide upon this other point, that the Public Service Commission is not a valid body under the State constitution.

In that case Vermont would be without a body duly authorized to regulate public service corporations, and Burlington would necessarily wait another two years for the determination of the question whether it was to have a new union station.

The same situation would confront similar projects in other parts of the State. The only remedy would be an extra session of the Legislature called at large expense to the people, and nobody could say even in that contingency just what sort of a public service law we might be able to secure.

It is evident from the hint thus thrown out as to the problem confronting our people with reference to the Public Service Commission that the situation is not at all satisfactory for those who desire the greatest possible degree of supervision consistent with due regard for the constitution and the interests of the people.

We formerly had a railroad commission that was practically useless because it did not have power enough. It is now claimed our Public Service Commission has too much jurisdiction, having been invested with both judicial and executive powers.

Some of our greatest executives have been those who combined executive, judicial interpretations of the law and legislative procedure in their acts, and some of our judges throughout the land have loudly applauded them.

Verily, it is not strange that the layman at times should be bothered to know where we are at in these days of half-tricked executives, interpretations of law by the bench, having the effect of legislative enactment, and lawmakers who are either superior to the constitution or so afraid of violating the fundamental law that they are constrained to do nothing.

Vermont's Paramount Need of a Closer Touch with Markets

Governor Fletcher emphasized one of the most far-reaching needs of the Green Mountain State at the present time when he told the Vermont dairymen that the vital thing for our farmers is to get into closer touch with the markets. He showed that no matter how thorough we may be in the matter of methods of cultivation and production and soil fertility, unless we can sell to advantage what we produce, our work to a certain degree will be thrown away.

This is unquestionably a succinct statement of one of the greatest problems confronting our farmers of to-day. We can all readily recall instances of crops going to practical waste because of apparent lack of demand. We say "apparent" advisedly, for in most cases the lack of demand is not real though we may not know it. The world is so constituted that there is almost invariably a demand somewhere for all commodities produced, and the apparent exception to the rule grows out of the failure of those who have the same to get into touch with those sections that need such products.

The United States government has become thoroughly aroused to this fact, and as a result the American consuls and other representatives in foreign countries are expected to be on the lookout for opportunities to increase the sale of our products.

New and larger markets for American goods are constantly made the subject of investigation and those who have read American consular reports, which are published periodically, have been impressed by the extent of the genuine service our consuls have rendered to American manufacturers.

For instance, an American consul in some city in France may notify the authorities in Washington that a splendid field for the sale of American shoes is open in his particular region. The consular reports which are spread broadcast over this country for the benefit of manufacturers and other producers carries this information to the manufacturers of boots and shoes and the live manufacturer at once gets busy and tries to take advantage of this opportunity.

Another American consul in South America may report that a good opening exists for various other manufactures, while from another direction we may learn of a chance to sell American food products. In this way the people of the United States are kept in touch with the market possibilities of the whole world, and the result is a tremendous increase in trade and the expansion of American commerce.

It would be manifestly impossible for Vermont to maintain sentinels of trade in different quarters to look out for better markets for Vermont products. It is not necessary to do this, for the work is already being done to a great extent. The information is already being furnished by national and State authorities and by the experts in different directions, but the trouble is that our farmers and manufacturers are not getting the benefit of such information.

Governor Fletcher expressed the opinion that the State agricultural department should arrange for this sort of service for our farmers, and probably this would be the best solution of the problem, although it is not the only solution, since a State board of trade might do it. When Vermont has a great surplus of potatoes, for example, the Vermont bureau of information equipped with consular reports and information regarding our own country needs could notify our farmers through the press or otherwise that a scarcity of potatoes prevailed in a certain region, and the live man among us could immediately arrange for shipments of tubers to that section.

This idea could be amplified to a marked degree in various directions, and the result would be better marketing facilities for our farmers all along the line. This service might also be extended to include other Vermont products.

One of the speakers before the Vermont maple sugar producers touched upon another feature of marketing that would be helpful in this connection, when he said that Vermont producers of cream and maple sugar and the varied products of Vermont have not applied business methods to distribution.

We need greater publicity for our Vermont products and we also need to protect the name of Vermont in connection with our products. He says the people of Vermont have been asleep in this direction, and he is unquestionably correct.

Governor Fletcher has set out to make his administration the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for the farmers of Vermont, and we hope he will early call the attention of the Legislature to legislation looking to the provision of means to meet the needs here emphasized. A greater Vermont means first of all a new impetus to agriculture in the Green Mountain State.

Under these circumstances it behooves the people to refuse through their representatives to grant any charter that is perpetually beyond the reach of those who made it possible; for there is no telling where we may be carried by the flood and ebbs of the tide of popular unrest on the one hand and discovery of infinite possibility of constitutional barriers on the other.

THE HEAVENS IN JANUARY.

Five Eclipses in 1913—Brilliant Winter Star Groups This Month.

(Winslow Upton in the Boston Transcript.)

The almanac published by Nathaniel Amer at Boston in 1747 has this introductory couplet:

The year to come shall wondrous things behold
But what to me the stars have not foretold.

That the stars are silent regarding many things which we wish could be foretold, while speaking plausibly regarding others is true enough. Cautious science declines today to attribute to stellar influence various occurrences on the earth which the science of former generations accepted, and no longer looks to the heavens for the signs of coming events. But there still survive in current almanacs traces of the abandoned speculations of former times. Even the Old Farmer's Almanac, pointing the way to "good" "bad," "army," etc., although it omits the human figure with the signs of the zodiac around it, which is the key to the astrological puzzle referred to. And the latest addition to the list of almanacs, that published in the interest of the Atlantic Monthly gives its sober sanction to weather predictions running down the month, even foretelling heavy snows for April 27 and 28.

Meteorological science will be able some day, it is not to be doubted, to forecast the general character of the seasons. That time is not yet here. Meanwhile the steady progress of the seasons, based upon the fact of the earth's annual path about the sun, is foretold with unerring accuracy, and the earnest of it is already evident in the increase in the interval between dawn and sunset since the shortest day in December. The northward movement of the sun has already begun.

Astronomical science can foretell with unerring accuracy also the movements of the earth and other planets and events such as eclipses and the rising and setting of the heavenly bodies which depend upon them. In the year now opening the brilliant planet Venus will be in the southwest at sunset until April. It will increase in brightness until the 15th of March, and for a few days in that month can be seen in full sunlight without telescopic aid. In April it will pass rapidly between the earth and sun and for the remainder of the year will rise

than a semicircle and diminishing in width. Venus sets on the 1st at 7:35 p. m. and on the 31st at 5:55 p. m. Saturn is the conspicuous star below the Pleiades. It rises on the 19th one of the designated points in its apparent path around the sun, the "stationary" point at the western extremity of its retrograde arc. On that date it turns eastward again and will continue in that direction for eight months. Its disk is inclined twenty-four degrees.

Neptune is in its best position for telescopic examination, as on the 15th it is in opposition to the sun. It is in the constellation Gemini, not far from Castor and Pollux, and may be found by pointing the telescope to right ascension seven hours forty-five minutes, declination north twenty-two degrees thirty-eight minutes.

The other four leading planets, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus, are not far from the sun in direction and therefore not readily seen. Mercury rises on the 1st at 5:35 a. m., or about one hour forty minutes before the sun. It is bright enough to be seen between 6 and 6:30 a. m. for a few mornings about the sunrise point on the southeastern horizon. Mars rises at 6:36 a. m. on the 1st and 5:30 a. m. on the 31st. Jupiter rises at 6:30 a. m. on the 1st and 5 a. m. on the 31st. Neither of these planets can be readily seen in the twilight. Uranus sets on the 1st at 6:10 p. m. passes behind the sun on the 23rd and is invisible. Were it not for the interference of sunlight the changing positions of these four planets would be interesting to watch. Mercury is near Mars on the 8th, Jupiter on the 15th and Uranus on the 13th. Jupiter and Mars are near together on the 15th, and the moon passes the quartette in order on the 15th and 17th.

The winter star groups are justly famous for their brilliancy and are seen this month at their best from localities where the absence of artificial illumination. Taurus, Gemini, Orion, Canis Major, Canis Minor and Ursa Major, eight of the sixteen brightest stars visible in this latitude besides many others of only slightly less brilliancy. The eastern half of the sky each evening glows with stellar light and the western half contains other groups which are worthy of being named with them, such as Cetus, Pegasus, Andromeda, Perseus, Cygnus and Lyra.

The comet discovered in the latter part of the year 1912, is passing away from telescopic view. One is far south to be seen from northern latitudes, another is too near the direction of the sun and the third, which when first discovered was seen by southern observers only, is now low in the northwest in the early evening and diminishing in brilliancy. Nineteen hundred and twelve was not marked by much comet activity, so there were no startling discoveries in this branch of astronomy, but the science prospered steadily and there was much activity, especially in solar studies with the aid of the spectroscope. The year marked the minimum of the cycle of sunspots, which are likely to be more numerous in 1913.

GREATER VERMONT NOTES.

Lectures on Good Roads to Be Given in February.

The following dates have been fixed for the first lecture on "Good Roads" to be given by Dr. H. Winslow, United States Superintendent of Road Construction, in his lecture tour throughout Vermont.

February 4 at Rutland before the Rutland State Association.

February 5 at Fiske before the Chamber of Commerce.

February 6 at London before the town of London.

February 7 at Putney before the town of Putney.

February 8 at Montpelier before the town of Montpelier.

The Commercial club of St. Albans will hold its annual dinner and meeting on Friday, Jan. 17.

The Newport Board of Trade is planning to secure a county agricultural adviser for Orleans county.

This week's factory site bulletin of the Greater Vermont Association calls attention to the fact that Henry Dennis of Portland, Maine, may be addressed with regard to plans for the establishment of a number of factories in New England for the manufacture of evaporated apples.

The directors of the Greater Vermont Association at their meeting at Montpelier on January 10, voted to apply for membership in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. In the list of New England chambers belonging to the chamber, as given in the January issue of the publication "The Nation's Business," Massachusetts is represented by nine organizations, Connecticut by four, Rhode Island by one, Maine by one, New Hampshire by one. The first annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States will be held in Washington, January 23-28.

The following selections from a letter sent to members of Windham county organizations by the Brattleboro Board of Trade are of great interest:

"The Brattleboro Board of Trade extends to you, and through you to one interested party from your organization, a dinner at invitation to a complimentary dinner at the Brooks House, January 17, 1913 at 12:30 P. M. At the close of the dinner, a business meeting will be held in the parlors of the hotel for the purpose of forming an agricultural association for Windham county, to provide for the employment of an agricultural specialist to work for a term of two years among the farmers."

"The commercial organizations of the county believe that work of this kind will greatly stimulate all business enterprises, and at the same time, be of incalculable value to the farmers."

"We want every farmer and every other agricultural organization in Windham county represented, so if you find it impossible to attend personally, please be sure to have some one else in your place to represent your organization."

"Here is a chance to get good for our own county, and if we believe in our county, and have its prosperity at heart, it behooves us to get into the harness at once, and grasp what is held out to us."

The garden where the roses bloomed
A few short weeks ago
Is girdled with little pools of ice,
And drifted deep with snow.

The thorny bushes, gorgeous then
With queenly blossoms bright,
Are stilly folded root and branch
In shrouds of frozen white.

But all along the windy west,
Behind the dusky pine,
With pink and crimson radiance
The winter sunset shines.

The hue of every rose of June
The glowing sky discloses,
For let within its glory lie
The heaven of the rose.

Minna Irving, in the N. Y. American.

The classification of your "For Rent" ad will make it "stand out"—even if it contains but five or six lines of type!

WARM TALK ABOUT CITY HALL

Alderman Declares Personal Motives Influenced Action of Board.

Lively Turn to Annual Meeting of the Burlington Commercial Club—Need of Improvements at Railroad Station.

An unusually lively session of the Burlington Commercial Club was held Tuesday evening, when its annual meeting was held with an attendance that taxed the seating capacity of the club room, and several important issues were taken up.

Alderman Barnes served hot potatoes, declaring that personal motives are behind the action of the board of aldermen in voting to spend some thousands of dollars of city money on repairs to the 50-year-old city hall.

"I don't like to tell tales out of school," said he, "but in the interests of the people of Burlington I feel that it is time for me to speak freely."

There are three or four builders on the board of aldermen. They don't dare figure on a new city hall, for they know they couldn't handle the job. But they can make the proposed repairs, and now they are in a fit to make the roof.

"I have not got some influence in a certain direction up north?" one of them asked me the other day. Then he added, "I don't get that job I'll make the roof."

If I were to estimate a job for the "Crystal Confectionery" company at \$500 and then when it was done bring in a bill of \$2,500 I'd expect to lose my position. Some of these fellows ought to lose their jobs if that's the way they do things. Not one of them knows what they're about. Those repairs on the city hall are likely to cost twice the amount estimated.

The talk started when ex-Mayor Burke brought up the need of a convention hall. The aldermen, said he, have decided upon Rutland for their next convention, largely because of the inadequate hall space to be found here. Montpelier, as well as Rutland, has a new hall while Burlington, with the best hotel accommodations in Vermont, must go begging.

He urged again, with the close attention of all present, the need of a convention hall, and the policy of combining it with a city hall, and also recommended complete equipment of motor driven fire apparatus to replace present horse drawn hose and ladder outfit, with the removal of fire headquarters from Church street.

These remarks caused the public to sudden exits of the auto truck, to the city market property. Mr. Barnes followed.

"They are not going to remodel the city hall," he continued. The same old antiquated offices are still to be used, just as 50 years ago. The city departments will be scattered in different buildings as at present. Let the aldermen consider the expense of maintaining several offices and of putting them under one head. Let them make it a matter of public—not personal—interest.

He may yet vote to spend \$5,000 or \$10,000 for these repairs, but I want those dollars secured out. I want to know what we are about. I want estimates made on "our backs" not personal interest."

"The city hall," he said, "before they get demolished," observed Mr. McMahon.

"Mr. Barnes," said Mr. McMahon, "consider this city a real service. When the people of Burlington know what is going on there'll be something doing. They'll make the aldermen realize their action."

"We don't have to go to New York city to find craft men to erect Junction to Windham. We've got it right here in Burlington. It's rotten, too."

"As I understand it," said Charles F. Huntington, "you will spend \$7,000-\$8,000 for a convention hall, and \$2,500 for repairs to the city hall. And even then you won't get what you want."

Mr. Burke declared that 50 feet of church street was occupied by junk shop and stable on the street level—as under the city hall and the old library building.

"They've told people in the north part of the city," said Mr. Barnes, "that the merchants and hotel interests want the convention hall, and the citizens have said, 'then let these people build it themselves.' But nobody wants to go down into their pockets and rob them. We want to do what is best for the entire city."

"How," asked Mr. McMahon, "do they propose to raise the money for these repairs?"

"By a tax," replied Mr. Burke, "a tax to be levied this year."

"The proposed new city hall, with stores on the street floor," said Max L. Powell, "would be self-sustaining, and would create also a sinking fund to pay off the bonds."

"Our party," said Mr. Burke, "came to this three years ago, when this building was suggested, and wanted figures on the rental of the entire basement. Some Rutland people interested in a department store wanted half the street floor, and another offer for half of it was made. Mr. Huntley of the steam laundry told me a party would come to this city if he could obtain store space."

"There are New York parties," said Mr. E. H. Houston, the real estate man, "who want space in this city, but they can't get it."

"Certain individuals in town," resumed Mr. Burke, "are opposed to such a building, but from personal interest. Owners of office buildings object because the plan includes a floor with rentable offices. Church street property owners fear it on account of the new store space that would be available. There is, on the whole, considerable opposition that shouldn't be considered."

"Is there any question of the city's title to the land?" asked Gardner Brewer.

"There is not," replied Mr. Burke. "In the original deed there is no mention of the use to which the land shall be put. Later, an act of the Legislature gave the city and the county the right to relinquish the location of the jail."

In reply to a question, Mr. Burke said that a special act of the Legislature would be necessary to give the city the right to build and to bond for this purpose.

A committee with full power to meet the board of aldermen at an immediate special meeting, which will be asked for and with power to arrange for a public mass meeting to discuss the convention city hall situation, was named, consisting of Messrs. Powell, Brewer, McMahon, Huntington and Thomas Wagner.

Officers were elected by the com-

mercial club as follows: President, J. L. Southwick; first vice-president, W. E. Greene; second vice-president, Prof. J. F. Messenger; secretary, H. S. Howard; treasurer, H. S. Weed; auditor, S. L. Plutka; directors, F. D. Abernethy, Dr. C. F. Dalton, C. P. Cowles and Prof. G. V. Burns.

The committee on amalgamation with the Merchants' association was continued in service, consisting of Prof. Messenger, W. E. Burt, M. D. McMahon, F. B. Houston and C. P. Huntington.

The president and secretary were authorized to prepare resolutions on the death of the late C. S. Isham.

The secretary was empowered to ask General Manager Jones of the Central Vermont railway to send representatives to meet the transportation committee of the club, and others regarding improvements at the railroad station, pending the erection of a new station.

The need of such improvements was brought up by Mr. Barnes, who criticized the condition of the freight roadway, and the inconvenience and loss resulting to shippers therefrom.

"There in that old station," said Mr. Cowles, "is the most dangerous grade crossing in Vermont. The other day Officer Miles was brushed by the step of a moving car, just as he was taking an old lady from the path of the train, which she failed to hear in the noise and confusion. There might have been two deaths."

Through President Southwick, Senator Henry of Underhill asked the co-operation of the club to improve the road through Nebraska notch, and a resolution favoring this was passed. It was also voted that Mr. Winslow be asked to speak here upon good roads, and co-operation toward obtaining a government expert in agriculture for this section was voted.

Treasurer Weed's report showed total receipts of \$425.18 for the year past with a balance on hand of \$12.65.

SECRETARY HOWARD'S REPORT.

While the past year does not show any very large municipal improvements completed, there were some improved conditions remedied and some questions agitated that will bring results for civic betterment in the near future. The Burlington Commercial club contributed in several ways to the welfare of the city during 1912. The records show that there were 11 regular and special meetings of the club, and the annual and two social meetings, one for the entertainment of the trade extension committee of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the other for the entertainment of the executive committee of the new Chamber of Commerce of the United States. At this latter meeting it was voted that the club ought to be a member of the National Chamber of Commerce and it was voted to send for its formal charter, and payment of \$10 dues to complete the membership.

The paid membership of this club for 1912 was 326, but in 1912 only 261 paid dues. There was no general canvass for membership as in the year previous owing to the decision to aid in the Winters Sports club which was soliciting funds for the winter season.

In January, at the request of R. D. Black, United States engineer, the secretary sent out many circular letters throughout the State for opinion on the advantages of the New York State barge canal to Vermont through Burlington as its port of entry, and the replies were almost uniformly favorable to the barge canal as a means to help Vermont and a natural outlet for its products.

Naturalistic reports were considered and sent to the United States engineer's office at Albany, N. Y.

The club also urged the railroad companies to replace the through White mountain train to give better traffic facilities between Burlington and the White mountains, but owing to the railroads failing to agree as to trains and schedules the passenger service to the White mountains with its four or more chances of cars in 24 hours remains as an archaic relic of a protest to the club was also made to the Rutland Railroad company to some of its summer passenger schedules to and from Grand Isle. The company then generously remedied as best it could some of its trains so that Grand Isle patrons could reach Burlington and return easily home the same day.

Another important subject was called to the secretary's attention during the summer. This was the provokingly delayed shipments of freight from Burlington to points in Vermont. After repeated correspondence and invoking the public service commission, a conference was held with the officials of the Central Vermont railroad which has remedied the trouble to a large degree as far as that road is concerned. But the Boston & Maine railroad is still allowing freight shipments from Burlington to be delayed so that Burlington is greatly hampered in competing with outside shippers to points in our own State. The public service commission has promised to do all in its power with the Boston & Maine to improve this unfair condition.

At the request of one of Burlington's important industries, the committee was organized by the Commercial club and after investigating the affairs of the manufacturer the committee reported favorably upon its condition and urged a more generous financial support of the company on the part of our citizens. The result has been that the company has increased its stock and machinery and is doing a larger business.

It was also voted by the club, on the recommendation of the publicity committee, to hold a subscription to some funds to advertise Burlington in several of the metropolitan newspapers. This was done to reach the tourist travel which has come in increasing numbers to Burlington during the summer.

The Commercial club also met some of the expenses incurred by the committee of fifteen in its conferences on the project of the union station. The good offices of the Commercial club were rendered last summer looking towards the settlement of the labor strike among the lumber men.

Delegates were appointed to represent this organization at the organization meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States held at Washington, D. C., and to the Lake Mohonk arbitration conference. The club had passed resolutions in favor of the proposed general arbitration treaties between Great Britain, France and the United States.

The secretary was able to assist the Fourth of July committee in raising funds for that day's celebration and he also raised funds by subscription to pay the rent of the armory for the daymen's conference. The club had and passed resolutions in favor of the proposed general arbitration treaties between Great Britain, France and the United States.

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